

**REMARKS**

In the present Office Action, Claims 1-7, 10-11, 13-19 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,600,783 to *Kakuta et al.* (*Kakuta*). In addition, Claims 8-9 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over *Kakuta* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,643 to *Lubbers et al.* (*Lubbers*). Finally, Claims 12 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over *Kakuta* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,098,119 to *Surugucchi et al.* (*Surugucchi*), and Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over *Kakuta* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,135,240 to *Ritchie*. Those rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the amendments made herein, and favorable reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that exemplary Claim 1 is not rendered unpatentable by *Kakuta*, whether considered alone or in combination with the other references or record, because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest each element recited therein. For example, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the following step of amended Claim 1:

a storage adapter receiving, from an operating system of a data processing system, a command to place a selected storage medium among said plurality of storage media that is electrically coupled to said storage adapter in an off-line state to perform an update to control program for said selected storage medium.

With respect to this step, Applicant notes that the cited passages of *Kakuta* (e.g., col. 9, lines 43-53 and col. 10, lines 45-53) all discuss the operation of *Kakuta*'s microprocessor 17 when the board carrying a targeted disk drive "has been withdrawn from the mother board 37" (col. 9, line 46). The cited passages of *Kakuta* do not teach or suggest "receiving an operating system command" as claimed. In addition, Claim 1 now explicitly recites that the step of "receiving ... a command" set forth above (as well as the "servicing" step also recited in Claim 1) is performed while the selected storage medium "is electrically coupled to said storage adapter." Clearly, this element is not taught or suggested by *Kakuta*'s disclosure of disk drive board that is disconnected from the mother board.

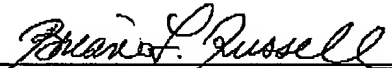
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Because *Kakuta*, when considered individually or in combination with the other references of record, does not teach or suggest each feature recited in exemplary Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that exemplary Claim 1, similar Claims 6, 16 and 26, and their respective dependent claims are not rendered unpatentable by the prior art of record.

Having now responded to each rejection set forth in the present Office Action, Applicant believes all pending claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such allowance.

No additional fee is believed to be required; if any additional fee is required, please charge such fee to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0563.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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